

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 59

Granting the consent of Congress to the International Emergency
Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 17, 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont introduced the following joint resolution; which was
referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

JOINT RESOLUTION

Granting the consent of Congress to the International Emergency
Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT.**

4 Congress consents to the International Emergency
5 Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding
6 entered into between the States of Maine, New Hamp-
7 shire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Con-
8 necticut and the Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick,
9 Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

10 The compact is substantially as follows:

1 **“Article I—International Emergency Management As-**
2 **sistance Memorandum of Understanding**
3 **Purpose and Authorities**

4 “The International Emergency Management Assist-
5 ance Memorandum of Understanding, hereinafter referred
6 to as the ‘compact,’ is made and entered into by and
7 among such of the jurisdictions as shall enact or adopt
8 this compact, hereinafter referred to as ‘party jurisdic-
9 tions.’ For the purposes of this agreement, the term ‘juris-
10 dictions’ may include any or all of the States of Maine,
11 New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island,
12 and Connecticut and the Provinces of Quebec, New Bruns-
13 wick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfound-
14 land, and such other states and provinces as may hereafter
15 become a party to this compact.

16 “The purpose of this compact is to provide for the
17 possibility of mutual assistance among the jurisdictions
18 entering into this compact in managing any emergency or
19 disaster when the affected jurisdiction or jurisdictions ask
20 for assistance, whether arising from natural disaster, tech-
21 nological hazard, manmade disaster or civil emergency as-
22 pects of resources shortages.

23 “This compact also provides for the process of plan-
24 ning mechanisms among the agencies responsible and for
25 mutual cooperation, including, if need be, emergency-re-
26 lated exercises, testing, or other training activities using

1 equipment and personnel simulating performance of any
2 aspect of the giving and receiving of aid by party jurisdic-
3 tions or subdivisions of party jurisdictions during emer-
4 gencies, with such actions occurring outside actual de-
5 clared emergency periods. Mutual assistance in this com-
6 pact may include the use of emergency forces by mutual
7 agreement among party jurisdictions.

8 **“Article II—General Implementation**

9 “Each party jurisdiction entering into this compact
10 recognizes that many emergencies may exceed the capa-
11 bilities of a party jurisdiction and that intergovernmental
12 cooperation is essential in such circumstances. Each juris-
13 diction further recognizes that there will be emergencies
14 that may require immediate access and present procedures
15 to apply outside resources to make a prompt and effective
16 response to such an emergency because few, if any, indi-
17 vidual jurisdictions have all the resources they need in all
18 types of emergencies or the capability of delivering re-
19 sources to areas where emergencies exist.

20 “The prompt, full, and effective utilization of re-
21 sources of the participating jurisdictions, including any re-
22 sources on hand or available from any other source that
23 are essential to the safety, care, and welfare of the people
24 in the event of any emergency or disaster, shall be the

1 underlying principle on which all articles of this compact
2 are understood.

3 “On behalf of the party jurisdictions participating in
4 the compact, the legally designated official who is assigned
5 responsibility for emergency management is responsible
6 for formulation of the appropriate inter-jurisdictional mu-
7 tual aid plans and procedures necessary to implement this
8 compact, and for recommendations to the jurisdiction con-
9 cerned with respect to the amendment of any statutes,
10 regulations, or ordinances required for that purpose.

11 **“Article III—Party Jurisdiction Responsibilities**

12 “(a) FORMULATE PLANS AND PROGRAMS.—It is the
13 responsibility of each party jurisdiction to formulate pro-
14 cedural plans and programs for inter-jurisdictional co-
15 operation in the performance of the responsibilities listed
16 in this section. In formulating and implementing such
17 plans and programs the party jurisdictions, to the extent
18 practical, shall—

19 “(1) review individual jurisdiction hazards anal-
20 yses that are available and, to the extent reasonably
21 possible, determine all those potential emergencies
22 the party jurisdictions might jointly suffer, whether
23 due to natural disaster, technological hazard, man-
24 made disaster or emergency aspects of resource
25 shortages;

1 “(2) initiate a process to review party jurisdic-
2 tions’ individual emergency plans and develop a plan
3 that will determine the mechanism for the inter-ju-
4 risdictional cooperation;

5 “(3) develop inter-jurisdictional procedures to
6 fill any identified gaps and to resolve any identified
7 inconsistencies or overlaps in existing or developed
8 plans;

9 “(4) assist in warning communities adjacent to
10 or crossing jurisdictional boundaries;

11 “(5) protect and ensure delivery of services,
12 medicines, water, food, energy and fuel, search and
13 rescue, and critical lifeline equipment, services and
14 resources, both human and material to the extent
15 authorized by law;

16 “(6) inventory and agree upon procedures for
17 the inter-jurisdictional loan and delivery of human
18 and material resources, together with procedures for
19 reimbursement or forgiveness; and

20 “(7) provide, to the extent authorized by law,
21 for temporary suspension of any statutes or ordi-
22 nances, over which the province or state has jurisdic-
23 tion, that impede the implementation of the respon-
24 sibilities described in this subsection.

1 “(b) REQUEST ASSISTANCE.—The authorized rep-
2 resentative of a party jurisdiction may request assistance
3 of another party jurisdiction by contacting the authorized
4 representative of that jurisdiction. These provisions only
5 apply to requests for assistance made by and to authorized
6 representatives. Requests may be verbal or in writing. If
7 verbal, the request must be confirmed in writing within
8 15 days of the verbal request. Requests must provide the
9 following information:

10 “(1) A description of the emergency service
11 function for which assistance is needed and of the
12 mission or missions, including but not limited to fire
13 services, emergency medical, transportation, commu-
14 nications, public works and engineering, building in-
15 spection, planning and information assistance, mass
16 care, resource support, health and medical services,
17 and search and rescue.

18 “(2) The amount and type of personnel, equip-
19 ment, materials, and supplies needed and a reason-
20 able estimate of the length of time they will be need-
21 ed.

22 “(3) The specific place and time for staging of
23 the assisting party’s response and a point of contact
24 at the location.

1 “(c) CONSULTATION AMONG PARTY JURISDICTION
 2 OFFICIALS.—There shall be frequent consultation among
 3 the party jurisdiction officials who have assigned emer-
 4 gency management responsibilities, such officials collec-
 5 tively known hereinafter as the International Emergency
 6 Management Group, and other appropriate representa-
 7 tives of the party jurisdictions with free exchange of infor-
 8 mation, plans, and resource records relating to emergency
 9 capabilities to the extent authorized by law.

10 **“Article IV—Limitation**

11 “Any party jurisdiction requested to render mutual
 12 aid or conduct exercises and training for mutual aid shall
 13 undertake to respond as soon as possible, except that it
 14 is understood that the jurisdiction rendering aid may with-
 15 hold or recall resources to the extent necessary to provide
 16 reasonable protection for that jurisdiction. Each party ju-
 17 risdiction shall afford to the personnel of the emergency
 18 forces of any party jurisdiction, while operating within its
 19 jurisdictional limits under the terms and conditions of this
 20 compact and under the operational control of an officer
 21 of the requesting party, the same powers, duties, rights,
 22 privileges, and immunities as are afforded similar or like
 23 forces of the jurisdiction in which they are performing
 24 emergency services. Emergency forces continue under the
 25 command and control of their regular leaders, but the or-

ganizational units come under the operational control of the emergency services authorities of the jurisdiction receiving assistance. These conditions may be activated, as needed, by the jurisdiction that is to receive assistance or upon commencement of exercises or training for mutual aid and continue as long as the exercises or training for mutual aid are in progress, the emergency or disaster remains in effect or loaned resources remain in the receiving jurisdiction or jurisdictions, whichever is longer. The receiving jurisdiction is responsible for informing the assisting jurisdictions of the specific moment when services will no longer be required.

“Article V—Licenses and Permits

“Whenever a person holds a license, certificate, or other permit issued by any jurisdiction party to the compact evidencing the meeting of qualifications for professional, mechanical, or other skills, and when such assistance is requested by the receiving party jurisdiction, such person is deemed to be licensed, certified, or permitted by the jurisdiction requesting assistance to render aid involving such skill to meet an emergency or disaster, subject to such limitations and conditions as the requesting jurisdiction prescribes by Executive order or otherwise.

1 **“Article VI—Liability**

2 “Any person or entity of a party jurisdiction ren-
3 dering aid in another jurisdiction pursuant to this compact
4 are considered agents of the requesting jurisdiction for
5 tort liability and immunity purposes. Any person or entity
6 rendering aid in another jurisdiction pursuant to this com-
7 pact are not liable on account of any act or omission in
8 good faith on the part of such forces while so engaged
9 or on account of the maintenance or use of any equipment
10 or supplies in connection therewith. Good faith in this arti-
11 cle does not include willful misconduct, gross negligence,
12 or recklessness.

13 **“Article VII—Supplementary Agreements**

14 “Because it is probable that the pattern and detail
15 of the machinery for mutual aid among 2 or more jurisdic-
16 tions may differ from that among the jurisdictions that
17 are party to this compact, this compact contains elements
18 of a broad base common to all jurisdictions, and nothing
19 in this compact precludes any jurisdiction from entering
20 into supplementary agreements with another jurisdiction
21 or affects any other agreements already in force among
22 jurisdictions. Supplementary agreements may include, but
23 are not limited to, provisions for evacuation and reception
24 of injured and other persons and the exchange of medical,
25 fire, public utility, reconnaissance, welfare, transportation
26 and communications personnel, equipment, and supplies.

1 **“Article VIII—Workers’ Compensation and Death**
2 **Benefits**

3 “Each party jurisdiction shall provide, in accordance
4 with its own laws, for the payment of workers’ compensa-
5 tion and death benefits to injured members of the emer-
6 gency forces of that jurisdiction and to representatives of
7 deceased members of those forces if the members sustain
8 injuries or are killed while rendering aid pursuant to this
9 compact, in the same manner and on the same terms as
10 if the injury or death were sustained within their own ju-
11 risdiction.

12 **“Article IX—Reimbursement**

13 “Any party jurisdiction rendering aid in another ju-
14 risdiction pursuant to this compact shall, if requested, be
15 reimbursed by the party jurisdiction receiving such aid for
16 any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in, the oper-
17 ation of any equipment and the provision of any service
18 in answering a request for aid and for the costs incurred
19 in connection with those requests. An aiding party juris-
20 diction may assume in whole or in part any such loss,
21 damage, expense, or other cost or may loan such equip-
22 ment or donate such services to the receiving party juris-
23 diction without charge or cost. Any 2 or more party juris-
24 dictions may enter into supplementary agreements estab-
25 lishing a different allocation of costs among those jurisdic-

1 tions. Expenses under article VIII are not reimbursable
2 under this section.

3 **“Article X—Evacuation**

4 “Each party jurisdiction shall initiate a process to
5 prepare and maintain plans to facilitate the movement of
6 and reception of evacuees into its territory or across its
7 territory, according to its capabilities and powers. The
8 party jurisdiction from which the evacuees came shall as-
9 sume the ultimate responsibility for the support of the
10 evacuees, and after the termination of the emergency or
11 disaster, for the repatriation of such evacuees.

12 **“Article XI—Implementation**

13 “(a) This compact is effective upon its execution or
14 adoption by any 2 jurisdictions, and is effective as to any
15 other jurisdiction upon its execution or adoption thereby:
16 subject to approval or authorization by the United States
17 Congress, if required, and subject to enactment of provin-
18 cial or State legislation that may be required for the effec-
19 tiveness of the Memorandum of Understanding.

20 “(b) Any party jurisdiction may withdraw from this
21 compact, but the withdrawal does not take effect until 30
22 days after the governor or premier of the withdrawing ju-
23 risdiction has given notice in writing of such withdrawal
24 to the governors or premiers of all other party jurisdic-
25 tions. The action does not relieve the withdrawing jurisdic-

1 tion from obligations assumed under this compact prior
 2 to the effective date of withdrawal.

3 “(c) Duly authenticated copies of this compact in the
 4 French and English languages and of such supplementary
 5 agreements as may be entered into shall, at the time of
 6 their approval, be deposited with each of the party juris-
 7 dictions.

8 **“Article XII—Severability**

9 “This compact is construed to effectuate the purposes
 10 stated in Article I. If any provision of this compact is de-
 11 clared unconstitutional or the applicability of the compact
 12 to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity
 13 of the remainder of this compact and the applicability of
 14 the compact to other persons and circumstances are not
 15 affected.

16 **“Article XIII—Consistency of Language**

17 “The validity of the arrangements and agreements
 18 consented to in this compact shall not be affected by any
 19 insubstantial difference in form or language as may be
 20 adopted by the various states and provinces.

21 **“Article XIV—Amendment**

22 “This compact may be amended by agreement of the
 23 party jurisdictions.”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE.**

2 The validity of the arrangements consented to by this
3 Act shall not be affected by any insubstantial difference
4 in their form or language as adopted by the States and
5 provinces.

6 **SEC. 3. RIGHT TO ALTER, AMEND, OR REPEAL.**

7 The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby
8 expressly reserved.

